

WITHIN OUR BORDERS

VOL. 1

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No. 11

Satisfied Tourist Seen Real Alberta Booster

The visitor who leaves Alberta praising the Province for its excellent meals, its cozy, comfortable sleeping accommodation and its clean rest rooms is Alberta's most valuable booster. He is an unpaid but enthusiastic goodwill ambassador.

To make every tourist a goodwill ambassador is the purpose behind the 1949 tourist promotion effort of the Alberta Government Travel Bureau. A campaign will be launched during the first week in May in co-operation with "Tourist Service Education Week" which, under the auspices of the Canadian Association of Tourist and Publicity Bureaus, will be observed from coast to coast in Canada and will be marked by special broadcasts and news feature releases aimed at making the Canadian public more conscious of the value of high catering, accommodation standards and courtesy in building the tourist industry.

Realizing that a much closer relationship should exist between resort operators, others in the travel industry and the Alberta Government Travel Bureau, the Government has appointed a field supervisor for the Travel Bureau. The supervisor will visit every resort area in the Province during the summer season to study the problems of the operators, help them with their publicity and gather information to be used for lectures and motion picture exhibitions in the United States.

Point of Entry Contacts

Representatives will be stationed at points of entry in southern Alberta to welcome visitors, direct them to good fishing or other activities of special interest to them; to assist them to obtain accommodation and to ensure that they have road maps and other informative material which will facilitate their travelling. These officials also will gather statistical information from visitors for use in planning future tourist campaigns. The tourists will be asked what brought them to Alberta—advertising, publicity, word-of-mouth commendations and so forth; how long they intend to stay; how much they expect to spend; what they like best to do on vacations and what kind of accommodation they prefer. Upon departure they will be asked to comment on the standards of catering, accommodation, courtesy, etc., which they encountered. All this information will be used by the Travel Bureau to eliminate or improve the weak spots in the structure of the tourist industry for future years.

A Co-ordinated Program

Believing that co-operation with other interested bodies is essential to

healthy progress, the Travel Bureau will co-operate with the Pacific Northwest Travel Association in bringing to Alberta this year two parties of outstanding travel editors and outdoor writers who will tour the Province to inspect our resorts for accommodation and catering standards and to participate in the activities which are afforded visitors to this Province. The purpose of these tours is to give the visiting writers a first-hand knowledge of Alberta's matchless scenery and attractions so that they will be better able to write with authority on the subject. They will represent some of the most influential world publications. * * *



"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration and services of the Alberta Government.

It is believed the many and varied services of the Government will be effective in the degree they are known and used. Any material used is for immediate republication.

Correspondence concerning the publication should be addressed to the Deputy Minister, Department of Economic Affairs, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

Join With the Campaign To Keep Forests Green

If there is anything more terrifying than a forest fire, it would be difficult to say what it is. Its heat is a terrible thing. It travels with unbelievable speed.

Green trees burst into flame as if they were made of paper, starting new fires. Other fires are started miles from the scene by sparks and masses of burning bark carried by the wind. The air itself seems to be ablaze as gasses released from the overheated wood bursts into flame.

Yet the beginnings of such devastation usually are simple. A cigarette-end dropped thoughtlessly or tossed from a moving auto, a camp fire left before it is quite out, a match thrown carelessly aside while it is still blazing—these are a few of the most common forms of this destructive carelessness. The damage does not cease with only the destruction of a forest for forests regulate the water supply on which the soil depends, provide shelter for thousands of wild things and in a hundred ways contribute to the national and provincial economy.

Every year forest fires cost millions of dollars in direct loss and millions more in indirect. An alarming percentage of these fires is due to human carelessness.

The Alberta Government maintains a fire prevention and fire-fighting organization yet in the last analysis, the responsibility is that of each individual citizen. In his hands are nearly all the causes to which forest fires are ordinarily attributable.

Slash fires which someone didn't bother to put out are among the familiar causes of forest fires and there is the smouldering fire which campers left behind . . . the cigarette butt . . . the glowing match.

Accidental causes are harder to control; nevertheless they continue to diminish. On the other hand, in a single season, campers, settlers and careless smokers have been known to account for 31 percent of the forest fire loss. In the same year, 24.3 per cent of the fires were of "unknown" origin and it is more than likely some portion of this can be added to the 31 percent debited to human carelessness.

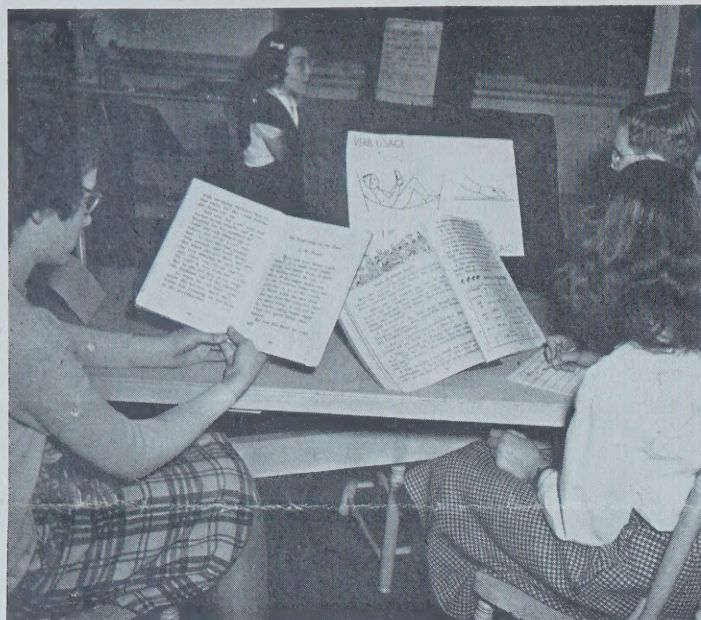
The appeal, then, is to lumbermen, motorists, truck drivers, tourists, campers, hunters—to all who use or pass through the woods. It is an appeal for utmost caution. Can we make it a year without a forest fire?

Keep Alberta's forests green!

Pictured at the right is one of the colorful posters being used in "Operation Evergreen," Alberta's 1949 forest fire prevention campaign. An outstanding feature of the posters is the printing in Day-Glo paint, which is visible in the dark.

In the campaign, which was planned jointly by the Forestry Branch, Department of Lands and Forests, and the Publicity Bureau, Department of Economic Affairs, posters are only one of the publicity media being employed. Newspaper and radio advertising also are being used extensively. * * *





Large type, big pictures prevent further eyestrain.



Headphones make even whispers audible for these youngsters.

Education for Alberta's Handicapped Children

Through Special Efforts on Their Behalf,
Hundreds of Handicapped Children
Reap the Benefits of Education

(The following is one of a series of articles to appear in Within Our Borders and which will tell the story of special types of children's classrooms in the Province. Prepared by D. T. Oviatt, supervisor, Teachers' Service Bureau, this story tells of the work being done in Alberta with handicapped youngsters. It was purposely set in large type so that children attending the special sight-saving classes would be able to read it with ease.)

At first glance most Canadian children look well fed, active and full of energy, actually the number suffering from a physical handicap is surprisingly large.

Reliable estimates indicate that of 500 children of school age at least 75 are undernourished, 50 have impaired hearing, 20 have defective speech, 20 have weak or damaged heart conditions, 10 are mentally subnormal and two have only partial or no sight. This number does not count those suffering from crippled conditions, established or suspected tuberculosis, emotional instability and other similar handicaps. Not all these children are so seriously afflicted as to require special classes. They do, however, represent special attention, additional time and extra cost. Alberta schools are making an effort to provide for the growth and guidance of these handicapped children throughout the Province.

The majority of handicapped pupils are enrolled in the regular classrooms of our schools. Generally speaking, if the handicap is not too marked, it is wise to keep the child in his usual class group. One of the most difficult things is the prevention of some psychological quirk or emotional disturbance in the child who has to carry the added burden of the physical disability. The child, because of his handicap, may easily develop some undesirable or negative habits. He may overwork in an effort to keep up with his classmates. He may excuse himself, work up self-pity, or throw temper tantrums to gain ends he cannot otherwise attain. The teacher must recognize the symptoms and work to correct them. She must know as well how to provide assistance, help and encouragement in such a way that the child

and his classmates are perhaps not even aware of the special aids.

Eye Strain Avoided

For example, the low-vision child must never face strong light or glare, must sit near the blackboard, must have special time in reading class. He should be provided with books of clear type for easier reading and be permitted frequent change of assignment to avoid fatigue and nervousness. Glasses must be cleaned for all the little folk, and extra time for language be found somehow for the little lad with a speech defect. One major advantage of the enterprise program is that assignments and tasks can vary to suit the needs of exceptional children.

The work for these special children in the regular classroom is unspectacular, perhaps seldom noticed, but it goes on steadily, day after day, in nearly every school in the Province, and thousands of handicapped Alberta children are reaping the benefits of a better education.

The second group of children are those enrolled in special classes in our city or town schools. Here children with very serious defects of low vision, poor hearing and mental retardation are given special assistance. The classes are provided by local boards but draw an extra grant from the Provincial Government. Sixteen such classes are currently in operation; eight in Edmonton, seven in Calgary and one in Medicine Hat. Teachers with special training and aptitude are in charge. Special equipment is available in every case. Small classes make possible individual instruction for each child. Activities are designed to suit the particular circumstances and personalities. Every effort is made to ensure a happy cheerful atmosphere within the room, and a healthy normal adjustment in contacts outside the class itself.

Sight-saving Class

Queen's Avenue School in Edmonton is a regular school



Handicrafts train young fingers to be nimble.



Hearty chefs make these travelling youngsters feel at home.

housing a sight-saving class, a hard-of-hearing class, and a class for retarded children. The principal and staff are justly proud of the opportunities they are providing for these less fortunate people. The children are a part of the regular student body. They participate in school assemblies, house-league games and playground activities. The luncheon-reading room prepared and maintained by the special classes is the most attractive spot in the whole school. The noontime meal, prepared in a spotless kitchenette adjoining, is served free of charge to eliminate the dangers of extra street travel in hours of heavy traffic. The rooms are light and cheerful with ample space for movement and activity. The equipment is up-to-date in every way. The hard-of-hearing classroom has earphone and microphone connections on every desk and plenty of modern devices for testing purposes. Visits and conferences with parents are a regular part of the school routine. Complete records are available to follow the progress of each child.

A visit to the sight-saving class is enough to restore full faith in human nature. Miss Thyra Hull, the teacher in charge, is an enthusiastic specialist at her job. After special training at Columbia University she is making a career of sight-saving work, and in her spare time serves on the board of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in Edmonton.

The class is small, 15 pupils is the maximum, and they are all busy. Here is a fifteen-year-old lad preparing for Grade IX. He works steadily at his English lesson, with frequent reference to the massive, large-type dictionary which Miss Hull explains "costs us \$50, including \$8 import duty". Here two girls are learning touch typing at machines with giant-size letters. Arithmetic and spelling lessons are done on non-glare paper with wide lines. Adjustable, portable blackboards take advantage of the best light. One boy proudly displays his favorite reading, a copy of *Treasure Island* in four volumes. The binding is gone from much usage, but each treasured page is in place and is read over and over by everyone from the primary grades up. Most striking of all is the happy informality and genuine affection evident everywhere.

No Scolding, No Tension

There is no scolding, no tension, no defeatism, no pampering. These children are self-reliant and well-adjusted. They have learned that life has compensations as well as misfortunes.

The third group of children requiring special education are

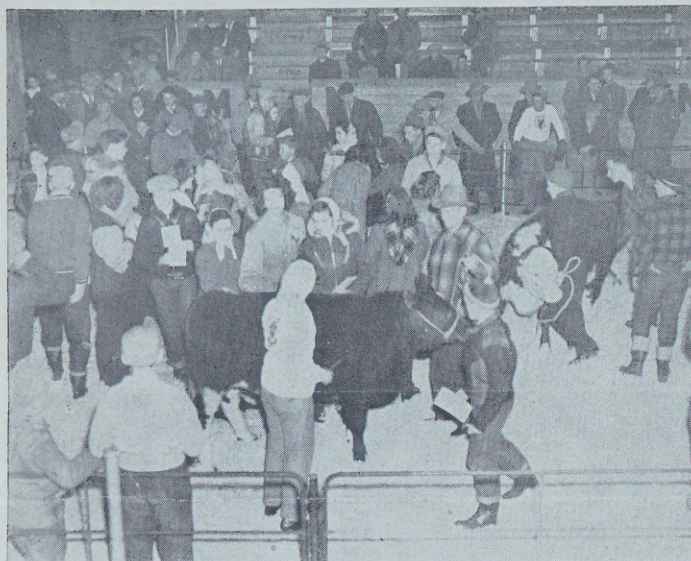
those with extreme handicaps, near or total blindness and deaf mutes. Provision is made by the Department of Education for their training in special schools for the deaf and the blind. No such school is available in Alberta but the service is provided through schools at other centres. This year there are 81 Alberta pupils getting this special education; 30 at Montreal schools, 33 at the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, 14 at the Brantford, Ontario, School for the Blind, and four in Vancouver.

The Department of Education provides tuition, maintenance and transportation each year to and from the schools. Qualified escorts are provided for the long journeys to and from Brantford and Montreal. Handicapped children from any part of the Province are eligible for enrolment and the Department is anxious to locate all children who need this special attention.

Training is provided for 10 years or more depending upon the circumstances and aptitudes of each scholar. Alberta students attending these schools are participating actively in all phases of school life. Some have made outstanding records in academic, cultural, and athletic fields. In 1947 Muriel Mitchell of Lloydminster won the award at the Ontario School for the Blind for the highest standing in classroom activities and character development. Charles Rush of Calgary, in attendance at the same school, won the grand champion trophy for all vocalists under 21 years of age at the Stratford Musical Festival. Practical courses in carpentry, piano tuning, printing, typing, sewing, cooking, weaving and similar fields are training these children to be useful citizens.

Education for handicapped children aims to do two things; first, to guide them toward a happy personal life, and second, to train them for useful vocational life. Our schools have made a good start. By manual training, handicraft skills, lip-reading and similar means these children prepare themselves for a place in the everyday world. Through understanding teachers they are finding real happiness despite limitations. But the schools can only go so far.

The active support of the public is needed if special training classes are to be made available to all children who need them, regardless of where they live in our Province. Some small concern and appreciation can place these people in useful employment and congenial personal circumstances. With help they can become genuine assets Within Our Borders. * * *



Junior judging competition at the Edmonton Live Stock Show.



Junior judges are as critical as the experts.



Girls also are live stock club members.



Kay Richards, Red Deer, is a consistent winner.



Reed Francis, Tofield, and his winning entry.



A proud boy and his reserve champion.

Department Guides 300 Junior Clubs

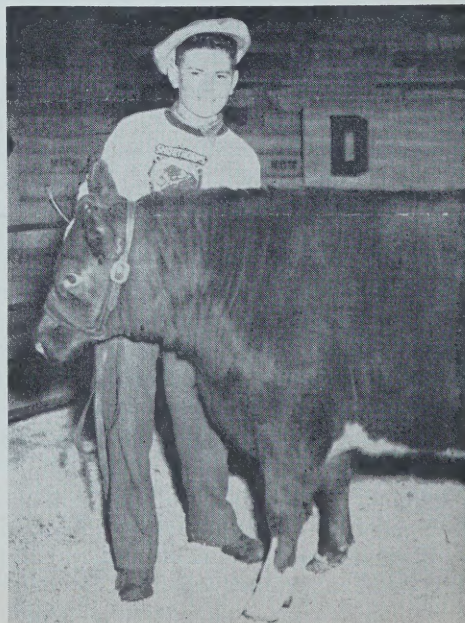
Alberta's Department of Agriculture has organized, and continues to supervise, more than 300 young people's clubs in various parts of the Province. These clubs have a number of projects, all designed to educate rural youth in agriculture.

At present 115 of the groups are junior live stock clubs whose aim first is to provide club members with training in good citizenship and second to improve the quality of beef, dairy cattle and swine.

The practise they receive in the conduct of meetings and the necessary co-operation with fellow members achieves the first purpose of the groups. By applying the principles of proper care and management to the live stock on their fathers' farms the members learn by doing and fulfil the second aim.

This "Within Our Borders" picture page features only one of the many activities of the clubs. The photos were taken during junior live stock judging competitions held in conjunction with the recent Edmonton Live Stock Show. * * *

—Photos by William Kensit, Edmonton.



Fed, fitted and ready for the show.

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